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[REDACTED]
10 East Plumstead Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050

March 7, 1994

Stanley Laskowski
Acting Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

*received 3/22/94 by
V. Jansick, RPM
(written prior to 3/15/94
public meeting)*

Dear Mr. Laskowski,

We recently received a copy of the revised Proposed Remedial Action Plan and were very disappointed to see that there has been a change in the plan relative to our house.

We have been on an emotional roller coaster ride since learning of the radioactive contamination in our house almost 2 1/2 years ago.

Our house was originally slated for repairs, then in July of 1993 we were notified that the house had to be demolished. After the initial shock of that announcement it appeared to us to be the best solution considering the fact that our house would have been forever stigmatized as a "contaminated" house.

The recent shock was when we learned on February 25, 1994 that our home was now proposed to be "fixed". The July 1993 Proposed Action Plan had 19 sites that required demolition. The present proposal calls for 15 homes to be dismantled and 4 homes that were previously to be dismantled are now proposed to be fixed. My wife and I object to the change for the following reasons:

- Our home has been "tainted" with the contamination label. We feel that even if it could be "fixed" that the value of our home would be greatly reduced compared to the value before contamination and relative to the other 15 houses that have been offered the choice of removal and replacement.

As you know, the "Solid Waste Management Act" requires the deed for any conveyancing to acknowledge that the property was once contaminated. It is obvious that the property would have more value if the contaminated building had been replaced and not merely repaired. Our primary source of assets has been the equity in our home which we feel is being jeopardized by this proposal.

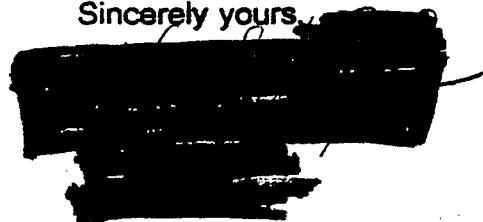
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- One of the reasons given for the repair of our home is that it is "less contaminated relative to the other structures and more readily repairable". According to EPA records our home is more contaminated than our neighbor's at 16 E. Plumstead and perhaps some of the others as well. As for the "more readily repairable" part we have some misgivings. Since July 1993 when our home was proposed to be dismantled no one has come to the home to determine the feasibility of repairing the home. There were drawings made in July 1991 but these were floor plans and not detailed structural drawings. I believe that if it is feasible to repair our home it is feasible to repair most of the others.
- Another reason the EPA gives for choosing this alternative for my family is because it "is the least disruptive to the lives of the affected property owners". We disagree and feel it is the most disruptive alternative. One reason is that no one knows the effects of these repairs on the rest of the house. Unexpected problems could come to light after the project is complete. We also feel the adverse consequences of this proposal have not been adequately pursued, such as the physical danger of working in a temporarily supported house, peripheral damage, unreliable cost estimates, ect. We also have the anxiety of returning to a decontaminated house. This alternative is certainly more disruptive than returning to a guaranteed, radioactively clean, new house.

I sense that this project is finally coming to a point where the Action Plan will be finalized. After the recent meeting (March 1, 1994) at the Lansdowne Boro Hall, it appeared that most of the homeowners were satisfied with the recent proposal. The project is very close to acceptance by all the homeowners and local officials as well. I think there would be total acceptance if the four homes whose status was changed would be offered the opportunity to chose the option to "remove and rebuild", just as the other homeowners have.

We would appreciate your efforts to see that we get the opportunity to choose alternative #3 (removal and replacement). We thank you in advance for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature and any handwritten notes that might have been present.

cc: Jack Rankin, Mayor
Lansdowne Boro

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